

# 02

EVERYONE CAN BE A LIFESAVER



**Royal Life Saving**  
ROYAL LIFE SAVING SOCIETY - AUSTRALIA



FACT SHEET No.02

# Restrict Access



## Q. What does restricting access mean?

**A.** Restricting access means ensuring there is a barrier between your child and a body of water. This can be done in two ways:

- **Barrier around the water** – this includes a pool / spa fence with a self-closing and self-latching gate in accordance with AS1926, closing the door to the bathroom after use, using pool/spa/tank covers, placing mesh on water features and fish ponds, ensuring lids are securely on nappy buckets. Note: Inflatables over a depth of 300mm need to be fenced by law.
- **Barrier around the child** – This takes the form of a Child Safe Play Area that can be used inside or outside the home and is especially effective for water you cannot fence like dams on farms.

Restricting access when combined with the other Keep Watch actions of Supervise, Water Awareness and Resuscitate are highly effective in preventing child drowning.

## Q. Why do barriers fail?

**A.** Barriers can fail when gates are left propped open, fences and gates aren't maintained and climbable objects are left against the fence. Royal Life Saving encourages parents and guardians to regularly inspect their pool by downloading and completing a home pool safety checklist from [www.homepoolsafety.com.au](http://www.homepoolsafety.com.au).

## Q. Is there a better method than restricting access?

**A.** Yes, removing the hazard is more effective in preventing your child from drowning than restricting access. You can remove the hazard by emptying the bathtub and buckets after use and filling in postholes, ditches and any other water features or hazards that are no longer used.

## Q. What is the benefit of Child Safe Play Areas?

**A.** Child Safe Play Areas are particularly effective for restricting a child's access to bodies of water that you cannot fence. Therefore they are effective on farms where dams are used for stock and cannot be isolated. They can also be used both outside and inside the house and assist parents in being able to actively supervise children.

## Real Life Story - Home Pool Safety

"After hearing about Royal Life Saving's Home Pool Safety Initiative on television, I was so moved by the information presented I decided to inspect our pool fence in detail. We have recently had our first child in November 2009 and she is very keen on water, she loves our home pool almost too much. When inspecting the fence I found two base screws rusted through and snapped off, leaving one piece of our fence on only 2 rusting screws. Consequently I knocked off early today and repaired the fence with new screws and mounting. Thank you RLSSA!"

**ROYAL LIFE SAVING HAS DEVELOPED A NUMBER OF FACT SHEETS ON WATER SAFETY ISSUES IN AUSTRALIA.**

Contact Royal Life Saving on: **1300 737 763**  
or download them from: **[www.keepwatch.com.au](http://www.keepwatch.com.au)**

## Restrict Access Checklist:

- Pool/spa fenced effectively. Completed checklist from [www.homepoolsafety.com.au](http://www.homepoolsafety.com.au)
- Pool/spa fence and gate regularly inspected and maintained
- Bathtub drained and door to the bathroom closed
- Child Safe Play Area established. Visited [www.keepwatch.com.au](http://www.keepwatch.com.au) for Child Safe Play Areas information and Fact Sheet No. 6
- Thin layer of mesh installed under the water surface on fish ponds and water features around the home
- All water bodies with a depth of 300mm or more fenced in accordance with State or Territory legislation. See Fact Sheet No. 9 for more information on pool toys and Fact Sheet No. 10 for wading pools

FENCE/GATE/MAINTAIN

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